

In the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawing includes a change to FIG. 2. An Annotated Sheet showing the change is attached along with the Replacement Sheet.

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants corrected FIG. 2 as suggested by the Examiner to define the left-most reference sign "220" as "200," and request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings on this basis.

As a further preliminary matter, the title is amended to "Piezoelectric Actuator With Symmetric Structure For Magnetic Disc Drive And Information Storage Device." For this reason, withdrawal of the objection the title is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-7 stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being in improper form. In response, Applicants amended these claims to proper form, and request withdrawal of the objection and examination of these claims on the merits.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marumo et al. (JP 07-136888). Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marumo. In response, Applicants amended independent claims 1-2 to clarify that the central portion of the hinge plate is disposed between the two limbs, and respectfully traverse the rejections based on these amendments.

The Examiner asserts that Marumo teaches a piezoelectric actuator with a hinge plate 6, which has a central portion, two lateral portions 5, and two limbs 8. However, as shown in FIG. 2 of Marumo, the hinge plate 6 does not have a central portion between the limbs 8. More specifically, Marumo fails to disclose or suggest a central portion of a hinge plate disposed between two limbs. Accordingly, Marumo has a disadvantage in that the rigidity of the piezoelectric actuator is significantly decreased, unlike the present invention.

More specifically, the present invention has a structure in which the two limbs of the hinge plate, with a central portion of the hinge plate disposed between the two limbs, are attached to a piezoelectric element. Thus, the present invention allows the hinge mechanism to be disposed close to the piezoelectric actuator. Therefore, the hinge mechanism can be smaller and lighter relative to the piezoelectric actuator. The smaller hinge mechanism of the present invention results in an increased rigidity of the actuator. Since Marumo does not have a central portion of a hinge plate between the two limbs and cannot achieve the above advantages, withdrawal of the §§102(b)/103(a) rejections of claims 1-5 is respectfully requested.

New claims 8-9 are added and are based on claims 6-7, but now rewritten in proper U.S. form. Applicants earnestly solicit allowance of new claims 8-9 and claims 6-7 for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, and also based on the features of these claims.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fig. 2

